

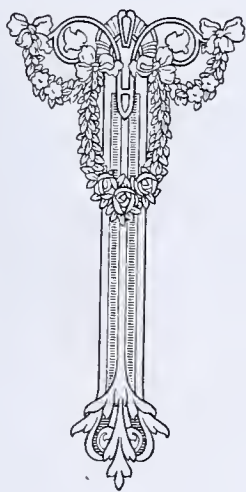
# ADDRESS

OF

REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY, U. S. N.

AT A LUNCHEON OF THE

ROTARY CLUB OF PORTLAND, MAINE

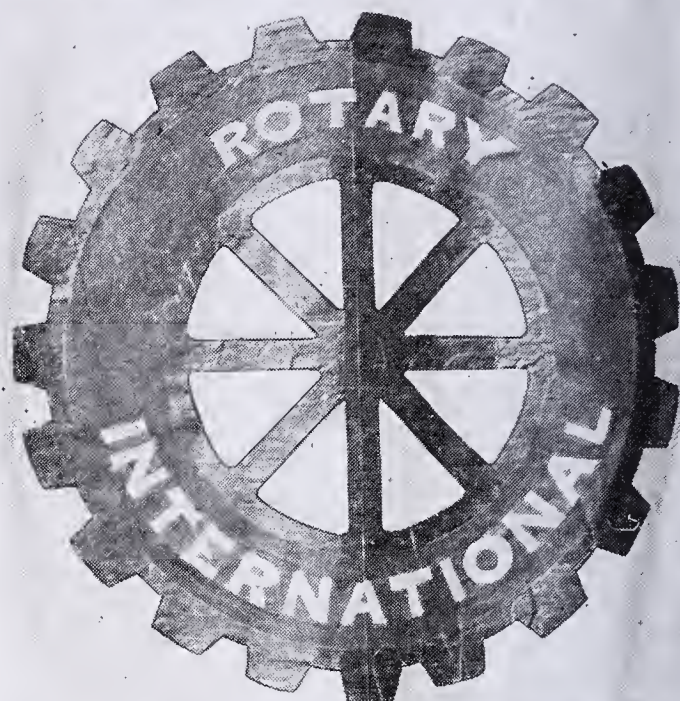


NEW FALMOUTH HOTEL

AUGUST 6TH, 1915



**PORTLAND**



**ROTARY CLUB**





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OF THE  
ROTARY CLUB OF PORTLAND

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522 Congress Street

# ADDRESS

OF

REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY, U. S. N.

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Mr. President, Rotarians:

I am complimented by this opportunity to address you.

I congratulate your organization upon having selected the fair City of Portland for its birthplace, and I congratulate Portland upon this latest, and unless appearances are deceitful, most healthy and lusty addition to her family, the Rotary Club of Portland.

At the suggestion of my friends, Mr. Hoegg of your Lunch Committee and Mr. Nichols, I have brought with me the North Pole Flag.

It may interest you to know that this silken flag was made by a woman's hands, that it has been carried for years by me in my Arctic work, and that for weeks at a time on my sledge expeditions it has been sewed about my body beneath my fur clothing, so that I might not lose it.

The patches show where pieces have been cut from it and left with my records at the farthest points reached by me, and the diagonal stripe through the flag was left with my record at the Pole.

## NORTH POLE A STANZA IN AMERICAN EPIC.

But I shall not take up your time with the North Pole. The actual fact of its discovery is, I assume, familiar to you. Its meaning and bearing are and will be inseparably associated with American bigness and effectiveness.

It is one of three great recent deeds; flying, the Panama Canal, the North Pole; which demonstrate, first — that we are living in the age of achievement, beside which the Elizabethan Age, the Golden Age, the Victorian Age pale into insignificance; second — that our fundamental American ideals are “bigness” and “realization.”

For all three of these great world dreams stand to the credit of Americans.

The Conquest of the Pole, milestone in history and national trophy as it is, is only a stanza in the great epic of American Bigness, American Ideals, American Destiny.

#### NATIONAL GROWTH.

The beginnings of this country less than one hundred and fifty years ago were the thirteen little colonies hugging the Atlantic Coast. Then we grew to the Mississippi, then to the Rio Grande, then to the Rocky Mountains, then to the Pacific, till now we reach from ocean to ocean through three thousand miles of boundless possibilities, with a great Arctic province of undeveloped resources, and possessions circling the globe.

#### TIME PREGNANT WITH FAR-REACHING POSSIBILITIES.

But never before in our history has there been a time so pregnant with far reaching possibilities as the present.

If we can escape the vortex of present world disturbance, what is to prevent us, when the fierce currents have subsided, from beginning an era of unexampled prosperity and growth, the limit of which no one can prophesy.

If in spite of our wish and efforts, we are drawn into the struggle, we are having such an opportunity to add to our own inherent strength, the priceless experience which others are buying at infinite cost of blood and treasure, as no nation ever had before.

Of one thing we may be sure. The world questions now in solution in War's fiery retort, will in crystallizing put the United States in a position commanding beyond our imagination.

#### PREPAREDNESS ESSENTIAL.

But to insure our splendid future, our constant thought and effort must be PREPAREDNESS, PREPAREDNESS, PREPAREDNESS.

We need to be aroused to the fact of our national inferiority in means of defense, to say nothing of offense.

We should begin NOW with a system based on those of



Switzerland, ① Australia, and New Zealand, ② with improvements and modifications suggested by their experience and our particular case.

### SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

The Swiss System which results in a large citizen soldiery ready for instant duty at a most moderate expense, is often mentioned.

The following information in regard to it may be of interest. The facts are on the authority of an ex-Swiss officer.

By way of introduction I may say that on the third of August last, Switzerland, the oldest of the Republics, showed the world that within forty-eight hours she could mobilize her army of 300,000 men and have it distributed on the strategically important points along the French-German-Austrian-Italian border. ③

“Only a small fraction of the time consumed in the training of the best standing armies of Europe is used in bringing Switzerland citizen-soldiery to the same or a greater degree of efficiency, and by all who have sought it the answer has been found in the schools of Switzerland.

“At the age of eight every Swiss school boy begins his course of physical training. It gradually takes up more of his time until he completes his sixteenth year.

“The whole course of physical instruction, even during

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①Note.—The population of Switzerland is about the same as that of Massachusetts. Its area is about twice that of Massachusetts.

②Note.—Australia and New Zealand with a combined area equal to that of our forty eight states, and a population about the same as that of Illinois, sent 175,000 trained troops to the front in the first few months of the present European war.

The same relative percentage of efficiency would give the United States with its population of 100,000,000, an immediate force of 3,000,000 trained troops.

③Note.—The National Security League in a recent statement, gives the strength of the Swiss army as 490,000 men.

Mr. F. A. Kuenzli a Swiss-American citizen, writes:

“The call for mobilization last year was issued August 1st. The Landsturm immediately joined the Customs Guards on the border, and at 9 A. M. on August 3rd, the Swiss Army of 425,000 men was ready for action.”

With the same relative percentage of efficiency as claimed for the Swiss in these statements, the United States would put 10,000,000 men in the field in forty-eight hours.

the years of immaturity, is under the supervision of the Federal War Department. There is but one primer for the physical training in the schools and that is issued and edited by the War Department. The teacher is the primary military instructor of every Swiss boy.

“ Hand in hand with the physical training of the Swiss boy at school goes that of the cadet corps, where the lad undergoes all of the exercises of the school for the soldier to that of the school of battalion, and where he receives a thorough and systematic course in rifle practice and firing theory. Rifle practice for the youngsters is accorded in absolute military fashion, including range and field exercises.

“ Preparatory courses for boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty form another division of the pre-recruiting work. These preparatory courses consist of exercises each Sunday morning all through Switzerland under the leadership of officers.

“ An infantry soldier enters service at his twentieth year, serves for sixty-seven days in a school for recruits, and after that serves for thirteen days each year until he is twenty-eight. He belongs to the first line for four years longer — until he is thirty-two, but is not bound to do any yearly service during that period.

“ From thirty-two to forty-two he belongs to the second line or Landwehr. In this capacity he serves for one week every second year. For six years, until he is forty, he serves in the Landsturm and is called to the colors twice for a period of one week. In addition every Landwehr and Landsturm soldier has to present himself for annual inspection when he must account for the care of his uniform and arms.

“ In civil life every Swiss soldier, which means every able Swiss citizen of military age, is a member of a rifle club, under the supervision of which he undergoes a yearly rifle shooting test, consisting of thirty-six shots with a minimum of 75 per cent. hits and 60 per cent. points for each exercise.

“ Government shooting tournaments are held every three years and the highest award in these events is the title of “ Master Shot ” given to those who make seventy-five hits out of one hundred shots within an 8-inch circle, in kneeling position, at a distance 330 yards. In 1910 at Berne, 128 Master Shots qualified.”



In his message to Congress last December, President Wilson said:

“ We never have had and while we retain our present principles and ideals we never shall have a large standing army.”

He added: “ It will be right enough, right American policy, based upon our accustomed principles and practices, to provide a system by which every citizen who will volunteer for the training may be made familiar with the use of modern arms, the rudiments of drill and manoeuvre and the maintenance and sanitation of camps.”

It is well to note these points. A citizenry so trained from youth can be readily and rapidly transformed into an efficient fighting machine.

The greatest demands of the requirements for military training are made on the time of the young man during the period in his life when he can best afford to grant that time to his country.

The Swiss system spells “ preparedness ” in large capitals.

#### ENORMOUS NATIONAL ASSET.

Think what an enormously valuable civic and economic national asset it would be to have among us millions of boys, yours and mine among them, taught to take care of themselves physically, to carry themselves erect, to be manly; boys being trained in discipline, in SYSTEM, in self control, in SELF RELIANCE, obedience, loyalty and DETERMINATION TO CARRY TO A FINISH THE TASK THAT HAS BEEN ASSIGNED OR UNDERTAKEN.

And millions of young men trained in the fundamentals of military drill and movements, in the art of giving and obeying orders, and possessed of the knowledge of how to handle men; a knowledge just as valuable for business purposes as for military.

Let us begin NOW, to do our part towards training our children in a way that will add greatly to our national efficiency in peace, and if necessary in defense of our national existence, enable us to call into instant action such an overwhelming and efficient force as will either avert conflict or insure speedy victory.

## AEROPLANES, SUBMARINES, BATTLE CRUISERS.

We need aeroplanes, the modern eyes of war ; submarines; and battle cruisers of the largest, swiftest and heaviest armed type.

The present successes of submarines have made some think we need only submarines. That is an erroneous idea.

Probably never again will geographical conditions of enclosed seas of contracted area, and the close proximity of the belligerents, be so favorable to submarines as in the present struggle.

Certainly they alone are not sufficient for us where conditions are so different, lying as we do between two broad oceans, with our possible enemies at long range.

Some feel we should prepare only for defense. **THERE IS NO DEFENSE SO EFFECTIVE AS A VIGOROUS OFFENSIVE.**

A battle cruiser squadron of the largest and swiftest type, with its accessories of destroyers and hydroaeroplanes, is the long arm with which to destroy an enemy's commerce or drive it from the sea; to strike smashing blows at his home coasts; to make his transport service impossible; and to destroy his fighting ships unless assembled in powerful battleship fleets. ①

Submarines will be the guard, and battle cruisers the counter for us in naval warfare. Or if we take a simile from fencing, submarines will be our parry, and battle cruisers our deadly thrust.

## AEROPLANES VITAL TO OUR SAFETY.

Eighteen months ago the aeroplane was a sport, an experiment, a mine for the inventor and mechanical engineer.

Today it is as vital to our defense and safety as air to the lungs of a warm blooded animal.

Not long ago the Aero Club of America did me the honor to make me Chairman of its Aeronautical Map Committee.

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①Note.— In the present European war the latest type of swift heavily armed battle cruisers are credited with the destruction of the German squadron off the Falkland Islands; with the defeat of the last German sortie in the North Sea, and the destruction of the Bluecher; and with the most effective work in the attempt to force the Dardanelles.

Ships of this type are said to have composed the squadrons which raided the English coast, and one of this type purchased by Turkey from Germany was considered equivalent to the rest of the Turkish Navy.



This Committee took up the subject of a general aeronautical map, and the establishment of a system of landing stations for aeroplanes.

Mr. Edwin Gould, a member of my committee, offered the use of land for a station at Jekyl Island, Ga. I offered the use of Flag Island for another.

Later Major General Wood made Governor's Island in New York harbor available. This gives three stations covering essentially the entire Atlantic Coast.

Since then the Aero Club of Philadelphia has begun a station in Philadelphia.

That was over a year ago. Today conditions are changed and what was then an effort to popularize and encourage the art of flying, is now a vital matter and comes right home to Portland and Maine, in the shape of the possible establishment in our harbor of an Atlantic Coast aerial patrol station.

#### ATLANTIC COAST AERIAL PATROL.

Captain Clark of the Army Aviation Corps, formerly an officer of the navy, has prepared a plan for the use of the hydroaeroplane as a vital adjunct of our coast defense.

He divides the Atlantic coast from Roanoke Sound to Portland into three sections, and shows three offshore hydroaeroplane courses or beats, the northern one from Portland to Newport, the central from Shinnecook Bay, L. I. to Cape May, and the southern one from Chincoteague Bay to Roanoke Sound. The centers of these sections are Boston, New York and Hampton Roads.

Over each of these offshore courses in time of war, a hydroaeroplane would make daily flights back and forth. In this way "three hydroaeroplanes would make a more complete reconnaissance than would be possible with a score of the fastest destroyers."

Captain Clark says:

"On a day of average atmospheric transparency, an observer in a machine flying at a height of 3,000 feet would make out a fleet of vessels at a distance of at least fifty nautical miles and the size of the fleet, the character of vessels, and the direction of movement would be reported to the waiting coast defense commanders."



“The report would, at the very least, give the coast artillery personnel at New York, Fort Monroe, Boston and Philadelphia, fifteen hours, and at the other fortified points within the zone eight hours advance notice of the approach of an enemy.

“At an altitude of about 700 feet submarine mines are distinctly visible from the air above and from an altitude of 2,000 feet the movement of a submarine may be easily observed.

“Practical tests in France have shown that a compact wireless outfit, weighing only about sixty pounds with antennae, and not interfering with the flight of the aeroplane carrying it, is capable of sending messages sixty miles, under ordinary conditions.

“At each terminal point there should be hangars, a machine shop, supplies, extra motors, spare parts, and a force of mechanics and relief pilots.”

#### AERIAL PATROL STATION AT PORTLAND.

Might it be well for you to look into this, with a view to establishing this end of such an Aerial Coast Patrol, and have one of the nations' eyes here in your harbor, at Flag Island, or other suitable place?

#### THE RED SIGNAL.

In conclusion, let me quote the following to show you what is in the mind of more than one informed and thinking man among us today.

“The western hemisphere is the richest, most accessible and most easily conquered portion of the globe. It is a tempting prize to an insatiate victor or a hungry loser of the present European struggle.”

And this:

“The last year has proved that no human institution, no government, no region on the earth's surface is safe unless it can defend itself. Treaties, laws, customs, and theories have been swept away and mankind is defending his belly with his knife. No knife, no life — that is the red signal flying throughout the world.”

## ADDRESS OF WARREN C. JEFFERDS

Maine Representative of the Associated Press.

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NOTE.—Warren C. Jefferds, the Maine correspondent of the Associated Press, made a very interesting address and at its conclusion he was given much applause. He began by explaining the functions and the work of the Associated Press, and to better illustrate the work it does, he read from the A. P. Service Bulletin the story of how the world was supplied with the news of the discovery of the North Pole. Mr. Jefferds was one of those who went to Battle Harbor to meet the Roosevelt with Commander Peary on board on her return from the North, but the account he gave of this memorable trip was that which was written for the Associated Press service paper and not his own. While Mr. Jefferds played a very important role in this expedition he was becomingly modest in referring to himself and the excellence of the account and Mr. Jefferds' modesty won for him a handsome tribute from the Rotarians.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

This is a novel experience for me, it being one of the ethics of the Associated Press to keep out of the limelight as much as possible.

Your President has asked me to say something about the Associated Press. As many of you know, it is a reporting organization for the newspapers of the United States. Its only function is to gather the news of the world daily for nearly 1,000 newspapers which constitute its membership.

It is a mutual co-operative body, which does not make a profit nor declare dividends, and does not engage in the business of selling intelligence. The expenses are apportioned among the newspapers and paid in weekly assessments.

The Associated Press is distinctively and essentially a news gathering and news distributing organization. Outside of that field it has absolutely no interest, but in that field its interest is supreme.

It has no policies to promote nor interests to defend, and like the Rotary Club, must be absolutely non-partisan, non-political and non-sectarian.

Correspondents are maintained at all the capitals of the world and at many other important points of news origin. There are a dozen or more bureaus in this Country, including one which was established in this city in 1900, for the State of Maine.



Here is gathered the news of the State from 100 odd correspondents and from the Maine papers, thirteen of which are members and, with one exception have the full service of about 26,000 words, or practically twenty-five columns, a day. This is supplied over a leased wire with an operator in each newspaper office.

I don't know of a better way to explain the activities of the Associated Press, and interest you, than to read in part a short account, published in the Service Bulletin on March 7th, 1910, of the manner in which the "story" of the discovery of the North Pole was handled six years ago next month. The Service Bulletin is issued semi-annually by the executive officers and furnished to the members and employees.

#### THE DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH POLE.

The Associated Press was the first to report Commander Peary's announcement on September 6th, 1909, by wireless from the coast of Labrador: "Stars and Stripes nailed to the Pole."

When Commander Peary appeared at Battle Harbor, Labrador, J. W. Regan, the Associated Press correspondent at Halifax, was ordered to charter a tug and hasten North. This he did, reaching Battle Harbor several days before any of the special correspondents. Regan made good use of his opportunity, and day after day sent out reports of the details of Peary's trip while the specials were still on the way to the Labrador coast. When they arrived the harvest had been gathered.

"This is a new record in newspaper enterprise, and I appreciate the compliment."

This was the greeting accorded the representatives of the Associated Press by Commander Peary at noon on Monday, September 13th, 1909, in his cabin on the S. S. Roosevelt, at Battle Harbor. Mr. Regan was accompanied by his assistant, W. G. Foster, and W. C. Jefferds, our correspondent at Portland.

Anticipating instructions to intercept Peary as far North as possible, Mr. Regan had secured an option on the only ocean going tug at North Sydney, as soon as the explorer's return had been bulletined. When the expected orders came,



Mr. Regan closed his option and with Mr. Foster, hurried to Sydney, from which port, after being joined by Mr. Jefferds, he put out on September 11th. The start was made at 1.30 A. M. After a hazardous and exhausting trip of 475 miles the tug drew in at Battle Harbor, September 13th, and was given a mooring alongside the ice-scarred Roosevelt.

Hour by hour for five days our men filed at the wireless station exclusive details of the commander's experiences in the far North. Something over 10,000 words were thus transmitted.

Mr. Jefferds, before starting from Portland, had conveyed to Mrs. Peary the first news of her husband's success. He had traveled to Sydney as one of Mrs. Peary's party and he carried to Battle Harbor the original copy of Mrs. Peary's reply to the commander's message to her. At the Labrador port, before he would consent to "give up" any news, the commander insisted on a long talk with Mr. Jefferds about Mrs. Peary and the children, from whom he had been parted for two years.

Wireless telegraphy entered into supplying the news these days to a greater extent than ever before in its history. All the matter from Battle Harbor came down, relayed over the Marconi system stations, from point to point along the bleak and mountainous coast to one of the cable stations on Newfoundland, and thence into New York by cable and land lines. Without wireless the Peary story would have been impossible to obtain.

Carl S. Brandebury of the New York office, went to Battle Harbor on a steamer despatched by the Newfoundland government. He later sent from Sydney the graphic story of the Commander's arrival and welcome at that port.

Gentlemen: I thank you for the pleasure of meeting with the members of the Rotary Club.

**PRESS COMMENTS**  
UPON THE ADDRESS OF  
**REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY**  
BEFORE THE  
**ROTARY CLUB OF PORTLAND, MAINE**

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*Portland Daily Press, August 7th, 1915.*

Published full text of address as given herein.

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*Evening Express and Advertiser (Portland), August 6th, 1915.*

Published full text of address as given herein.

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*Daily Eastern Argus (Portland), August 7th, 1915.*

Published full text of address as given herein.

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*Editorial — Portland Daily Press, August 10th, 1915.*

**BUSINESS MEN IN TRAINING.**

Thirteen hundred business men from New England and New York will go into Camp today at Plattsburg to be instructed for a month in military affairs. Among them will be Mayor Mitchell of New York City, many of the city's prominent officials and influential men in all walks of life. They will be taught to drill, march, dig trenches, and do all the things that are required of soldiers. It will be hard work, but the men who have volunteered for this course of instruction are looking forward to their experience with many pleasurable anticipations. The effect of this movement will be widespread and will undoubtedly result in popularizing military preparedness and laying the foundation for a large citizen army.

In an address before the Rotary Club, the other day, Rear Admiral Peary advocated some system by which the young men of this country could be instructed in military matters. What he said made a great impression upon his hearers and many hard headed business men who were present at this meeting expressed themselves as being thoroughly in sympathy with the idea. As Admiral Peary points out, and as the Press has before stated, the benefits to be derived from more general military instruction can hardly be estimated. In the first place it will teach young men to take care of themselves physically, it will promote good citizenship; a respect for law and authority; give them a knowledge of sanitation; cause them to seek out of door living, exercise and to enjoy manly sports; it will prove the melting pot for the elimination of racial, religious and social prejudices and of secondary importance to these things it will equip them to serve their country in case of war.

The example of these business men who have gone into camp at Plattsburg should stimulate an interest in the national guard and in the summer camps for military instruction which have been established throughout the country. They are performing a double service to their country in volunteering for this course of instruction — fitting themselves for military duty in the future and attracting attention to the need of general instruction along this line.

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*Editorial — Brockton, (Mass.) Times, August 9th, 1915.*

#### FOR DEFENSE ONLY.

In speaking before the Portland Rotary Club on the subject of national defense, Rear Admiral Peary laid emphasis on many points of unquestionable value, but detracted somewhat from the general admirableness of his remarks by declaring no form of defense is so effective as a vigorous offensive. In this particular Admiral Peary does not make himself clear. A vigorous offensive that can be brought into play in case of need as a defense is one thing, but an offensive that is to be continually held up before the world as a veiled threat is entirely another. This country wants no offensive that is in any way different from its general plan for defense. We want in reserve an offensive that can be used in case we should be called upon to defend our own shores, but this country has no use for an offensive which will lead us into wars of our own solicitation.

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*Enquirer (Philadelphia), August 7th, 1915.*

Special to the Inquirer.

Portland, Me., August 6th.— In a notable address before the Rotary Club, of Portland, today, Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary made a strong plea for preparedness for war in the United States, declaring that he believed there was “no defense like a vigorous offensive.”

He said that the United States needed aeroplanes, submarines and battle cruisers of the largest, swiftest and heaviest armed types and he suggested the adoption of the so-called Swiss military system, which results in a large citizen-soldiery ready for instant duty at a most moderate expense. Never before in our history has there been a time so pregnant with far-reaching possibility as the present, he said.

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*Times, (New York), August 7th, 1915.*

Special to New York Times.

Portland, Me., August 6th.— Before a gathering of Rotarians, representing many Eastern States, Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary today made an eloquent and forceful plea for preparedness for war in the United States. Admiral Peary expressed his conviction as follows:

“Never before in our history has there been a time so pregnant with far-reaching possibilities as the present. If we can escape the vortex of the present world disturbance, what is to prevent us, when the fierce currents



have subsided, from beginning an era of unexampled prosperity and growth, the limit of which no one can prophesy?

“ If, in spite of our wish and efforts, we are drawn into the struggle, we are having an opportunity to add to our own inherent strength the priceless experience which others are buying at infinite cost of blood and treasure as no nation ever had before.

“ Of one thing we may be sure. The world questions now in solution in war’s fiery retort will in crystallizing put the United States in a position commanding beyond our imagination. But to insure our splendid future our constant thought and effort must be preparedness, preparedness, preparedness.

“ We need to be aroused to the fact of our national inferiority in means of defense, to say nothing of offense. We should begin now with a system based on those of Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand, with improvements and modifications suggested by their experience and our particular case.

“ We need aeroplanes — the modern eyes of war — submarines, and battle cruisers of the largest, swiftest, and heaviest armed type. The present successes of submarines have made some think we need only submarines. That is an erroneous idea.

“ Probably never again will geographical conditions of inclosed seas of contracted area and the close proximity of the belligerents be so favorable to submarines as in the present struggle. Certainly they alone are not sufficient for us, where conditions are so different, lying, as we do, between two broad oceans with our possible enemies at long range.

“ Some feel we should prepare only for defense. There is no defense so effective as a vigorous offensive. A battle cruiser squadron of the largest and swiftest type, with its accessories of destroyers and hydroaeroplanes, is the long arm with which to destroy an enemy’s commerce or drive it from the sea, to strike smashing blows at his home coasts, to make his transport service impossible, and to destroy his fighting ships unless assembled in powerful battleship fleets.

“ Submarines will be the guard and battle cruisers the counter for us in naval warfare. Or if we take a simile from fencing, submarines will be our parry and battle cruisers our deadly thrust.

“ Aeroplanes are vital to our safety. Eighteen months ago the aeroplane was a sport, an experiment, a mine for the inventor and mechanical engineer. Today it is as vital to our defense and safety as air to the lungs of a warm-blooded animal.”

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*Boston Globe, August 7th, 1915.*

Portland, Me., August 6th.—Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, in an address before the Portland Rotary Club, today, supported President Wilson’s views, expressed in a message to Congress last December, of a citizen-soldiery, and urged the Swiss system of military preparedness for the United States.

“ Aeroplanes,” he said, “ are as vital to our defense as air to our

lungs," and he renewed his suggestion that an Atlantic Coast aerial patrol be established with a station in Portland.

"Of one thing we may be sure," said Admiral Peary, "the world questions now in solution in war's fiery retort will in crystallizing put the United States in a position commanding beyond our imagination. But to insure our splendid future, our constant thought and effort must be preparedness.

"We should begin now with a system based on those of Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand. The Swiss system spells 'preparedness' in large capitals."

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*Journal (Providence), August 7th, 1915.*

Portland, Me., August 6th.—Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, in an address before the Portland Rotary Club, today, supported President Wilson's views, expressed in a message to Congress last December, of a citizen-soldiery, and urged the Swiss system of military preparedness for the United States.

#### URGES PREPAREDNESS.

"Of one thing we may be sure," said Admiral Peary, "The world questions now in solution in war's fiery retort, will in crystallizing put the United States in a position commanding beyond our imagination. But to insure our splendid future, our constant thought and effort must be preparedness.

"We should begin now with a system based on those of Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand.

"The Swiss system which results in a large citizen-soldiery ready for instant duty at a most moderate expense, is often mentioned.

"A citizenry trained from youth can be readily and rapidly transformed into an efficient fighting machine. The Swiss system spells 'preparedness' in large capitals.

"Think what an enormously valuable civic and economic national asset it would be to have among us millions of boys taught to take care of themselves physically, to carry themselves erect, to be manly; boys being trained in discipline, in system, in self-control, in self-reliance, obedience, loyalty, and determination to carry to a finish the task that has been assigned or undertaken.

#### AEROPLANES NEEDED.

"We need aeroplanes (the modern eyes of war), submarines and battle cruisers of the largest, swiftest and heaviest armed type.

"Some feel we should prepare only for defence. There is no defence so effective as a vigorous offensive."

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*Republic (St. Louis), August 8th, 1915.*

Portland, Me., August 7th.—In an address before the Rotary Club of Portland, yesterday, Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary made a strong plea for preparedness for war in the United States, declaring he believed there was "no defense like a vigorous offensive."



He said that the United States needed aeroplanes, submarines and battle cruisers of the largest, swiftest and heaviest armed type and he suggested the adoption of the so-called Swiss military system, which results in a large citizen soldiery ready for instant duty at a most moderate expense.

“We need to be aroused to the fact of our national inferiority in means of defense, to say nothing of offense,” he said:

“We should begin now with a system based on those of Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand, with improvements and modifications suggested by their experience and our particular case.”

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*Commercial (Bangor), August 6th, 1915.*

Portland, Me., August 6th.—Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary in an address before the Portland Rotary Club, Friday, supported President Wilson's views, expressed in a message to Congress last December, of a citizen-soldiery, and urged the Swiss system of military preparedness for the United States.

“Aeroplanes,” he said, “are as vital to our defense as air to lungs,” and he renewed his suggestion that an Atlantic coast aerial patrol be established with a station in Portland. “Submarines are our guard and battle cruisers our counter in war,” he declared.

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*Kennebec Journal (Augusta), August 7th, 1915.*

Portland, Me., August 6th.—In a notable address before the Rotary Club of Portland, at the Falmouth Hotel, today, Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, made a strong plea for preparedness for war in the United States, declaring that while many believe we should prepare only for defense, that in his opinion “there is no defense like a vigorous offensive.”

Admiral Peary said:

“I shall not take up your time with the North Pole. The actual fact of its discovery is I assume familiar to you. Its meaning and bearing are and will be inseparably associated with American bigness and effectiveness.

“The Conquest of the Pole, milestone in history and national trophy as it is, is only a stanza in the great epic of American bigness, American ideals, American destiny.

“But never before in our history has there been a time so pregnant with far reaching possibilities as the present.

“We need to be aroused to the fact of our national inferiority in means of defense, to say nothing of offense.

“We should begin now with a system based on those of Switzerland, Australia, and New Zealand, with improvements and modifications suggested by their experience and our particular case.

“The Swiss System which results in a large citizen soldiery ready for instant duty at a most moderate expense, is often mentioned.

“Think what an enormously valuable civic and economic national



asset it would be to have among us millions of boys, yours and mine among them, taught to take care of themselves physically, to carry themselves erect, to be manly; boys being trained in discipline, in system, in self control, in self reliance, obedience, loyalty, and determination to carry to a finish the task that has been assigned or undertaken.

“ Let us begin now, to do our part towards training our children in a way that will add greatly to our national efficiency in peace, and if necessary in defense of our national existence, enable us to call into instant action such an overwhelming and efficient force as will either avert conflict or insure speedy victory.

“ In conclusion, let me quote the following to show you what is in the mind of more than one informed and thinking man among us today.

“ ‘ The western hemisphere is the richest, most accessible and most easily conquered portion of the globe. It is a tempting prize to an insatiate victor or a hungry loser of the present European struggle.’ ”

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*Journal (Lewiston), August 7th, 1915.*

Portland, Me., August 7th, (Special).—The Rotary Club, composed of business men of Portland, entertained Admiral Robert E. Peary as its guest at a luncheon at the Falmouth Hotel, Friday noon.

Admiral Peary was then introduced with appropriate remarks by the President, as our “ Maine Admiral.” The North Pole flag was exhibited and thrown to the breeze before the assembly. Admiral Peary said in substance:

“ The beginnings of this country less than one hundred and fifty years ago were the thirteen little colonies hugging the Atlantic coast. Then we grew to the Mississippi, then to the Rio Grande, then to the Rocky Mountains, then to the Pacific, till now we reach from ocean to ocean through three thousand miles of boundless possibilities, with a great Arctic province of undeveloped resources, and possessions circling the globe.

“ But never before in our history has there been a time so pregnant with far-reaching possibilities as the present.

“ But to insure our splendid future our constant thought and effort must be preparedness, preparedness, preparedness.

“ We need to be aroused to the fact of our national inferiority in means of defense, to say nothing of offense.

“ We should begin now with a system based on those of Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand, with improvements and modifications suggested by their experience and our particular case.

“ Only a small fraction of the time consumed in the training of the best standing armies of Europe is used in bringing Switzerland citizen-soldiery to the same or a greater degree of efficiency, and by all who have sought it the answer has been found in the schools of Switzerland.

“ It is well to note these points. A citizenry so trained from youth can be readily and rapidly transformed into an efficient fighting machine.

“ In conclusion, let me quote the following to show you what is in the mind of more than one informed and thinking man among us today:

“ ‘ The last year has proved that no human institution, no govern-

ment, no region on the earth's surface is safe unless it can defend itself. Treaties, laws, customs, and theories have been swept away and mankind is defending his belly with his knife. No knife, no life — that is the red signal flying throughout the world.' ”

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*Worcester (Mass.) Post, August 12, 1915.*

Admiral Robert E. Peary, U. S. N., the discoverer of the North Pole, in a recent address raised his voice in behalf of preparedness for war, advocating some system of military training which will be general in its character. The trouble is with most suggestions that they lack specific details.

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*Galveston (Texas) Tribune, August 9, 1915.*

Admiral Peary's views upon the problem of national defense — a very pressing and acute problem in America — are entirely sound. An organized and comprehensive plan of effectively utilizing our citizen soldiery we must have. And as the boy is the father of the man we must see to it that each human unit of our national strength is given the soundest and strongest body possible.

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*Manchester (N. H.) Union, August 9, 1915.*

Reprinted in Portland (Maine) Argus, August 10, 1915.

#### PEARY AND PREPAREDNESS.

Admiral Peary stands out in the popular imagination as the man who, through untold hardship and acute privation, gave to the United States the glory of being the only nation whose ensign has fluttered to the breeze at the North Pole. But Peary before he became world-renowned as the discoverer of the North Pole, was an officer of the American Navy and as such became intimately familiar with military problems. Speaking in Portland the other night Admiral Peary said:

“Of one thing we may be sure, the world questions now in solution in wars' fiery retort will in crystallizing put the United States in a position commanding beyond our imagination. But to insure our splendid future, our constant thought and effort must be preparedness.

“We should begin now with a system based on those of Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand. The Swiss system spells ‘preparedness’ in large capitals.

“We need aeroplanes (the modern eyes of war), submarines and battle cruisers of the largest, swiftest and heaviest armed type.

“Some feel we should prepare only for defense. There is no defense so effective as a vigorous offensive.”

Here speaks not only the trained soldier but the citizen of the world, who has the vision to see and the courage to counsel preparation for the great future of this country if it arises to its wonderful opportunity. That it will arouse itself to the duties and requirements which world leadership involves cannot be doubted. The signs that American public opinion has at last become thoroughly aroused are unmistakable and it is not an idle boast to aver that when the United States finally determines that a given thing ought to be done and undertakes the task, it does that job exceptionally well.

There is reasonable ground for the hope that America is at the point emerging into that splendid destiny for which the country was designed by Providence.

*Springfield (Mass.) Union, August 9, 1915.*

## REAR ADMIRAL PEARY'S VIEWS ON NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, is among the latest to advise that the United States follow the example of Switzerland in the education and training of its citizens in those matters that make for a strong national defense. "The Swiss system spells preparedness in large capitals," he says.

But while Admiral Peary recommends this form of preparedness, he is not blind to the necessity of strengthening our national defenses in other respects. He sees the need of aeroplanes, of submarines and of battle cruisers. In this he is wise. It is folly to be carried away with some single plan of defense to the exclusion of other factors essential to the development of a strong, well balanced program. Switzerland's plan may be ample for its own needs, but it would go only part of the way in equipping the United States for the emergencies that may arise. Give the Army and Navy a fair chance to develop their efficiency.



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